Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

1-26. (Cancelled)

27. (Currently amended)   A method of recording a transfer of a piece of data, the method comprising the steps of:

      i.   determining whether a database contains a record that has data which represents the piece of data; and

      ii.   upon determining that the database contains the record, setting one or more counters, which represent a total amount of the data in the record that has been transferred, such that the amount includes a quantity of the piece of data, to thereby record the transfer of the data; and

      iii.   setting the data in the record to correspond with an indicator that has a byte count less than a byte count less than the piece of data.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Currently amended)   The method as claimed in claim [[28]] 27, wherein the step of determining whether the database contains the record comprises the steps of:

    a. obtaining a first storage location in the database using a hash function $f(K)$, wherein K is the piece of data; and

    b. checking whether the record is at the first storage location.

30. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 29, wherein the step of setting the one or more counters comprises the steps of:

    a. adding to a first of the counters a quantity of bytes of the piece of data; and

    b. incrementing a second of the counters by a number of data packets associated with the piece of data.

31. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 30, further comprising the step of creating the record in the database upon determining that the database does not contain the record.

32. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 31, wherein the step of creating the record comprises the steps of:

    a. obtaining a second storage location in the database using the hash function $f(K)$, wherein K is the piece of data; and

    b. storing the record at the second storage location.

33. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 32, further comprising the step of selecting the piece of data from other data associated therewith.

34. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 33, wherein the selecting step comprises selecting the piece of data based on whether a temporal parameter associated therewith meets a predefined criterion.

35. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 34, wherein the predefined criterion comprises the temporal parameter having a value that is within a range of temporal values.

36. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 35, further comprising the step of setting a temporal field of the record based on the temporal parameter.

37. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in any one of claim 36, wherein the temporal parameter comprises a time and/or date stamp.

38. (Previously presented) Computer hardware storing software, which when executed causes a computer to carry out the method as claimed in claim 27.

39. (Currently amended)   An apparatus recording a transfer of a piece of data, the system comprising:

    a. determining means arranged to determine whether a database contains a record that has data which corresponds to the piece of data; ~~and~~

    b. setting means arranged to set, upon determining that the database contains the record, one or more counters, which represent a total amount of the data in the record that has been transferred, such that the amount includes a quantity of the piece of data to thereby record the transfer of the data; and

    c. <u>the setting means being further arranged to set the data field to correspond with an indicator that has a first byte count less than a second byte count of the piece of data</u>.

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 39, wherein the determining means is arranged to determine whether the database contains the record by:

    a. obtaining a first storage location in the database using a hash function $f(K)$, wherein K is the piece of data; and

    b. checking whether the record is at the first storage location.

43. (Currently amended)   The apparatus as claimed in claim [[41]] 39, wherein the setting means is arranged to set the one or more counters by adding to a first of the counters a quantity of bytes of the piece of data, and incrementing a second of the counters by a number of data packets associated with the piece of data.

44. (Previously presented)   The apparatus as claimed in claim 42, further comprising: creating means arranged to create the record in the database upon the determining means determining that the database does not contain the record.

45. (Previously presented)   The apparatus as claimed in claim 43, wherein the creating means is arranged to create the record by:
     a. obtaining a second storage location in the database using the hash function $f(K)$, wherein K is the piece of data; and
     b. storing the record at the second storage location.

46. (Previously presented)   The apparatus as claimed in claim 44, further comprising: selecting means arranged to select the piece of data from other data associated therewith.

47. (Previously presented)   The apparatus as claimed in claim 45, wherein the selecting means is arranged to select the piece of data based on whether a temporal parameter associated therewith meets a predefined criterion.

48. (Previously presented)   The apparatus as claimed in claim 46, wherein the predefined criterion comprises the temporal parameter having a value that is within a range of temporal values.

49. (Previously presented)   The apparatus as claimed in claim 47, wherein the setting means is arranged to set a temporal field of the record based on the temporal parameter.

50. (Previously presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 48, wherein the temporal parameter comprises a time and/or date stamp.